

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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AN APPEAL FOR A NURSING MISSIONARY

BY MISS EMERY

Church Missions House, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City

I AM most anxious to bring before the St. Barnabas Guild for Nurses the need of a missionary nurse in the Elizabeth Bunn Memorial Hospital in Wuchang, China. Such a nurse, going as a missionary to a missionary hospital, should be not only a graduate and well-equipped nurse, but a communicant of the church, with the true missionary spirit at heart. This combination is what we have found difficult to meet with, and what we are hoping for in bringing this matter to your notice.

Wuchang is one of the walled cities of China, of two hundred thousand inhabitants, situated six hundred miles up the Yang-tse River, and is one of our finest stations. There, on the general missionary compound, we have the Church of the Nativity, the Boone School for boys, the Divinity School for theological students, St. Hilda's School for girls, the Clergy House, Guest Rooms, houses for the missionaries, St. Peter's Hospital for men, and this Elizabeth Bunn Hospital for women and children. Four missionary clergymen are stationed at Wuchang, two physicians, three married and two unmarried ladies. One of the physicians, unmarried also, is Dr. Mary Glenton, who has charge of this women's hospital. For more than a year she has been pleading with us for a nurse to come to her assistance. A year ago this summer her bishop, Bishop Ingle, reported that she had had no trained Chinese assistants, though at that time she was hoping for one, while also earnestly desiring a trained nurse, hoping that she would have one come to her by September last; but that trained nurse has never yet been found.

The last report from the bishop, printed last fall, says that Dr. Glenton had been conducting two clinics for women and children, one at the hospital gate five times a week, the other far away across the city three times a week. The whole number of new cases at the two places was seventeen hundred and twenty-two, while the return visits of patients amounted to two thousand six hundred and sixty-one, and the doctor had made one hundred and thirty-seven visits to patients in their homes. Fifty-one women and children had been taken into the hospital and forty-four dismissed cured, while sixty-seven minor operations had been performed.

Since this report was written Dr. Glenton has had a very severe illness, as might be expected when she has had so little assistance in her work and has the study of a difficult language to pursue, as well as the labor entailed by her duties as a missionary physician.

When one considers this woman working so alone at such a distant outpost,

it seems that this is almost enough to tempt someone to volunteer to go to her aid. But this does not seem the only appeal that the work in Wuchang offers. It is a great opportunity for a Christian woman to give loving service among a poor, ignorant, and heathen people, and to be one of the few lights shining in that dark country, showing out Christ's love in the world. A nurse *here* is one of hundreds or thousands. She is lost sight of, almost, among the many whose services may be called upon. She has her opportunities for good, and may follow here, too, the example of our Lord in caring for the sick and suffering; but *there* there are so few, and each one seems to play an important part in this glorious work, and there are such thousands and millions of people among whom the help of the few must be divided.

It would be a great delight to us should some earnest member of St. Barnabas Guild volunteer for this service. That is one reason why I write this letter. Another is, that should such an one be found, the guild itself might claim the privilege of supporting her in the work. The salary of a nurse in China would be five hundred and fifty dollars for the first three years, the sum raised from time to time as the years go on. Should no nurse offer at present, would the guild be inclined to make an offering of this kind in the direction of missionary work? I would suggest that Miss Mason, stationed at Tanana, on the Yukon River, Alaska, is one known to many among them. The *May Spirit of Missions* contains an article on the work that she finds to do in that isolated mission field, so different from crowded Wuchang, where a few straggling visitors and the little Indian village claim her care, but yet which needs the same devotion and the same Christian spirit which our nurse for China needs. We should be glad to have the prayers and the help of St. Barnabas Guild—prayers for all this work, wherever it may be found, help as the guild may be able to render it by the offer of an individual nurse, or by the offer of support, or both.

WE so often receive letters asking how one may become a member of the Guild of St. Barnabas and what the object of the guild is that, in spite of the article which appeared in our department for January, 1902, and also of those discussions of the subject in the form of papers read at the council in Philadelphia and later printed in several issues of the *JOURNAL*, a few words may not be amiss.

The object of the guild is twofold, religious and social. It is intended to strengthen nurses in their work by a common bond of association and sympathy, and also to cheer them when they are at leisure by some social stimulus.

The members are nurses in training or graduates of recognized hospitals, and the associates are both clerical, medical, and lay.

Each branch has a given time and place of meeting, at which a religious service is followed by a social hour.

The members need not be churchwomen, though the associates are required to belong to the church.

Many people ask: "Does it do you any good to belong to the guild? Do you make anything by it?"

In our own opinion we have made a good deal by it, and that not to be reckoned in material dollars and cents, for to the guild many of us owe spiritual support, religious counsel, friendly sympathy, and last, but by no means least, many a thoroughly good time.

It is certainly of much use in travelling, as a strange member who goes

to a city in which there is a branch of the guild may find friends and companionship.

If *esprit de corps* be ever desirable, it is certainly among nurses, and our association is one more way of developing that valuable spirit.

As to the sick relief associations which exist in some of the branches, we do not intend to expatiate on them, as a lengthy article will appear on that subject in a later issue. All inquiries as to the feasibility of membership should be addressed to our secretary general, Mrs. William Reed Howe, 252 Main Street, Orange, N. J.

ORANGE, N. J.—Each annual festival seems to possess a charm of its own which lifts it above all other meetings and makes it each year more enjoyable and more significant to all present. We met at St. Mark's Church, West Orange, at eleven A.M. for the celebration of the Holy Communion, the chaplain general being the celebrant, five other priests being present, including, of course, our own chaplain. The service was choral throughout, the address being made by the rector of the parish, Rev. F. Reazor. We regret that every member of the guild could not have the privilege of listening to his address, which, starting without a text, described in the clearest and most convincing language the why and the wherefore of the guild, just what it does stand for. It was a most valuable lesson to all present, and the number who were able to attend was notably large. Six associates were admitted, chiefly coming from our new friends in Bloomfield. A business meeting immediately followed and the election of officers, those of last year being reelected, with the addition of an assistant treasurer and the delegates to the Annual Council—Miss Benz, active member, alternate Miss Cora Swain; Mrs. E. White, Bloomfield, associate delegate, alternate Miss Ida Clark. Bishop Whitehead was called upon to address the meeting during the counting of the votes, and by his kind words of encouragement inspired us to further efforts during the coming year to maintain the standing of our branch; it was, indeed, a privilege deeply appreciated that we should have had him with us this year. At the conclusion of the meeting the members were requested to adjourn to the church lawn until the committee in charge had time to arrange the luncheon, which had been planned in honor of the bishop's coming. In a very short space of time they were recalled and found the room arranged with small tables, which were quickly filled by sociable parties, and many an old friend was warmly greeted after long absence. About one hundred and twenty sat down to one of the most delicious luncheons that was ever served, and we presently separated feeling how good these reunions are, from the social as well as the religious point of view, which, according to Mr. Reazor, are so inseparable that they are one and the same thing if viewed in the proper light. We are glad to be able to report that Miss M. E. Johnson is convalescing rapidly from her severe illness and is about to leave Orange for change of air. Miss S. Evans has accepted a position in the Vassar Brothers' Hospital and is well pleased with her new work. We are pleased to announce the marriage of one of our members, Mrs. M. L. Smith, to David Curtis Fitzpatrick, on June 30, in East Orange.

THE article in the July number of the JOURNAL written by "Orange," putting forward the great need of a fund for helping nurses who are unable to continue their profession, should interest all members of the guild. Why it should be considered such a very selfish thing for nurses to be interested in

their own future I cannot imagine, but so it is, and at the last council meeting of the guild, when the subject of some central object that we could all work for was under discussion, Boston was apparently the only branch which thought the members ought to work for themselves. People outside of the profession never take into consideration the short space of time during which a nurse may be able to work. Unlike members of any other profession, instead of her value increasing with age and experience, it is quite the reverse. One reason is that the supply of nurses much more than meets the demand, and will continue to do so as long as every little hospital has its own training-school, as is the custom now; another that the majority of sick people prefer young nurses, which perhaps is not to be wondered at. A surgeon was heard to remark the other day that he did not care to have a nurse on one of his cases who had graduated more than a year, which, of course, was a very foolish thing to say, but goes to prove that the nurse doing private work has not much to look forward to. There are generally institutional positions open for those who are suited to them, but the salaries as a rule are small. It is a strange fact that though we hear so often of large sums of money being left to hospitals and medical schools, so little interest seems to be taken in either the education or the future welfare of the nurse, though I think in these days no one would deny how important she has become to the public. So far all that has been done *for* nurses has been done *by* nurses. I have no idea to suggest as to how this plan of a central fund could be carried out, but no doubt that would be easily arranged if we could only be sure of the interest and coöperation of every member of the guild.

BOSTON.

ALL contributions for the guild department of the JOURNAL should be sent in by the fifth of the preceding month, and we shall be glad to hear not only from the branches, but from any associate or friend of the guild.

